


Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 May 2003

Current Na
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Daily Overview

- The Washington Post reports that the U.S. Postal Service plans a trial of a new anthrax detection system
- The New York Times reports that the World Health Organization has again added Toronto to its list of p SARS is spreading, but stopped short of issuing a travel advisory. (See item [19](#))
- The Associated Press reports that some states are having budget shortages that impact their ability to res recent increase in the terror alert level. (See item [25](#))
- The New York Times reports that Afghan authorities have arrested five men who reportedly planned to area in the southern city of Kandahar. (See item [32](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *May 22, The Hartford Courant* — **Energy measure clears Connecticut Senate. The state Senate on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly to approve a major energy bill that would cap electric rates about 11 percent higher than they are now, but would redirect some existing electric charges to blunt the increase.** The practical effect of the legislation would be a 4 percent increase in electric bills, on top of about 8 percent in other recent increases that are not under the state's direct control, said state Sen. Melodie Peters, D–Waterford, co–chairperson of the legislature's energy and technology committee. **The legislation would add \$3 to \$4 a month to the typical residential customer's bill, she said. It should also allow electric competition to develop in Connecticut while providing some rate protection**

for consumers. The House of Representatives still must act on the bill, and Gov. John G. Rowland would have to sign it before it became law. A new energy law has been a high priority for lawmakers this year because the electric contracts serving Connecticut customers expire in December. **The cost to produce electricity has risen since those contracts were negotiated, and lawmakers fear that, without new protections, consumers would be exposed to the volatile energy market and forced to pay even higher rates.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3864184

2. *May 22, Reuters* — **Australian power station tests alternate fuels. A new renewable energy source has emerged in Australia with the development of the world's first power station to be fuelled by waste from food processing.** Construction began this week on the A\$3 million (\$2 million) power plant in the northern state of Queensland, which will use 5,000 tons of shells annually from Australia's native macadamia nuts as fuel for the 1.5 megawatt generator. **The biomass co-generation plant, which is a joint venture between Queensland state-owned Ergon Energy and macadamia nut producer Suncoast Gold Macadamias, will generate 9.5 gigawatt hours of electricity annually to supply more than 1,200 homes.** "This project...could be replicated across a range of other industries, including peanut, timber, meat, wheat and grain processing, where waste streams could generate heat, electricity and revenue," Skilleter said. The joint venture said it aimed to double the power plant's output by 2005, when the shell waste from Suncoast Gold Macadamias was expected to have increased to 10,000 tons.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3864705

3. *May 22, Reuters* — **Workers strike at New Jersey nuclear power plant.** AmerGen Energy Co. and Exelon Nuclear said on Thursday union members at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in New Jersey walked off the job at noon on Thursday. **Officials at the plant said in a statement the walkout would have "no impact on safety, plant operations or security at the station, or on electricity supplies in the area. The 650 megawatt plant, which generates enough power for about 650,000 homes, has been shut for repairs since May 20.** "The strike should not increase the length of the outage," plant spokesman Craig Nesbit said, noting the company had a plan in place to complete the work and return the plant to service in the event of a strike. Nuclear operators generally do not comment on the length of outages. Members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1289 have been without a contract since Jan. 31, 2003. The last negotiations to work out a new contract were held mid-April. **The strike has no impact on members of the plant security force, who are not represented by the IBEW.**

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2003_05_22_eng-reuters_pma_WORKERS-STRIKE-AT-AMERGEN-NJ-NUCLEAR-POWER-PLANTa

4. *May 21, Chattanooga Times/Free Press* — **Tennessee Valley Authority uses more low-sulfur coal to stoke power plants. While the use and price of natural gas has risen for most utilities, the Tennessee Valley Authority is still stoking most of its power plants with relatively stable-priced coal. But the federal utility is using more low-sulfur coal to limit air pollution.** TVA directors are scheduled Wednesday to award another three contracts for up to \$141.3 million of low-sulfur coal for the Kingston and Bull Run Fossil Plants in East Tennessee. TVA officials said the average price for coal has remained relatively stable despite

rapidly changing prices in natural gas. "Natural gas has been used for most of the new peaking power plants other utilities have built in recent years, but gas prices are proving to be much more volatile and usually less competitive," TVA Director Bill Baxter said. **TVA derives over half of its electricity generation from coal burned at its 11 fossil plants. Natural gas is used only as a source of temporary peaking power at scattered combustion turbine plants, TVA spokesman Gil Francis said.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3865440

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *May 22, U.S. Northern Command* — U.S. Northern Command and UCCS sign memorandum of understanding. Northern Command and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that defines their working relationship regarding homeland defense–related activities. **The purpose of the Memorandum is to recognize evolving matters of mutual interest and benefit to USNORTHCOM and UCCS and to establish a framework within which these matters may be addressed. Specifically, it establishes a link between the Network Information and Space Security Center (NISSC) homeland defense efforts and USNORTHCOM.**

Source:

<http://www.northcom.mil/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.showstory&storyid=506984AE-AFD8-D060-610838>

6. *May 22, U.S. Department of Defense* — DoD chemical and biological defense annual report released. The annual report is published as a two volume set. **In volume one, chapter one, the report provides information on the recent re-organization of the department's chemical and biological defense program management and oversight structure.** Chapter two is an overview of research, development, and acquisition plans and programs. Chapter three is an overview and assessment of chemical and biological defense logistics. Chapter four is an overview of doctrine, training, and readiness. Chapter five lists the department's activities in supporting the Chemical Weapons Convention. **Volume two of the report is the Chemical and Biological Defense Program performance plan. In addition, the annexes include detailed information on systems' descriptions, program funding, and logistics data.** The report can be located and downloaded from the web at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/cp> under the "Reports" section.

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2003/b05222003_bt360-03.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

7. *May 23, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — Treasury Department Order 100–16: Delegation of authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security. On May 15, 2003, the

Secretary of the Treasury issued Treasury Department Order 100–16. **The Order allocates authorities between Treasury and Homeland Security concerning Customs regulations, rulings, and other matters. It delegates to the Secretary of Homeland Security general authority over Customs revenue functions vested in the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, subject to certain exceptions.** Under the Order, the Secretary of the Treasury retains the final authority over regulations concerning specified Customs revenue functions, and the authority to review, modify, or revoke specified determinations or rulings. The Order also specifies that the Advisory Committee on the Commercial Operations of Customs (COAC) will be administered jointly by the Departments of Treasury and Homeland Security.

Source: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-13152.htm>

8. *May 21, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Remarks by Michael A. Dawson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Compliance Policy.** At a FDIC outreach meeting titled "Protecting the Financial Sector: A Public and Private Partnership", Michael A. Dawson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Compliance Policies said that, given their important role as first protectors, the federal government should work to share timely threat information with state and local law enforcement authorities and, where possible, with the private sector. "One of my responsibilities is to help make sure this happens for information relating to the critical financial infrastructure. There are several ways that we are trying to improve information sharing between the federal government and first protectors – state and local authorities and the private sector.", said Dawson. He continued **"For example, the President established the Financial and Banking Information Infrastructure Committee, the FBIIC. One of the things that we use the FBIIC for is as a mechanism to evaluate and share available threat information. For example, Treasury has installed secure telecommunications equipment and arranged for appropriate security clearances for personnel in the members of FBIIC, so that we can effectively share sensitive and even classified information. Where appropriate, we can share information with an individual institution, in the case of a specific and credible threat against a specific institution, or with the financial sector more generally."**

Source: <http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/js397.htm>

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Transportation Sector

9. *May 26, The New York Times* — **Boiler room blast kills 4 crew members on cruise ship.** **Four crew members were killed and at least 17 others were injured in an explosion and fire in a boiler room of the Norway, a cruise ship** that had just docked in Miami after a week in the Caribbean, rescue officials said. None of the 2,135 passengers aboard the ship, owned by Norwegian Cruise Lines, were injured and all were evacuated without incident, the officials said. The Miami–Dade police said **the explosion did not appear to be a terrorist act.** "There is no indication whatsoever of any criminal activity," Police Director Carlos Alvarez said. "At this time, it appears to be a very tragic accident."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/26/national/26CRUI.html?pagewanted=printont>

10. *May 23, Brattleboro Reformer* — **Air patrol snaps shots of Vermont Yankee. Several planes flew over Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon on Friday as part of a "Homeland Security Simulation Mission," an Air Force official confirmed Friday.** "We took digital aerial photographs of half a dozen sensitive locations around the state and sent them back to Vermont Emergency Management," said Major Richard Turner of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, which oversees the Vermont Civil Air Patrol, which conducted the drill. Turner also works for the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Other locations photographed Friday by the air patrol's mid-sized Cessna planes were two dams on the Connecticut River, several private airstrips, and facilities along the Vermont-Canada border, Turner said. **Today, the air patrol will conduct more drills in the airspace between Keene, N.H., and Rutland, he said. No more flights over Vermont Yankee are planned.**

Source: <http://www.reformer.com/Stories/0.1413.102%7E8862%7E1400773.00.html>

11. *May 23, Washington Post* — **Metro chief wants evacuation plan.** Richard A. White, Chief Executive of the Washington, DC area's subway and bus system ("Metro") said yesterday he is alarmed by a lack of coordination among the many agencies that control the Washington DC region's road and transit systems and fears that this weakness will trap people in the event of another terrorist attack. **Although much time and money has been spent to improve emergency response since the attack on the Pentagon, White said, not enough attention has been paid to the challenge of moving people in and around the capital during a crisis.** The problem, he said, is that control of the road network is splintered among two states, one city and the federal government while transit is divided among Metro, several private bus companies and two commuter railroads. **A drill last month of the region's transportation agencies exposed several gaps in coordination, said Carol Kachadoorian, executive assistant to Metro's chief operating officer for rail.** "There are just a lot of things that still need to be thought through," she said. "What's the strategy for evacuating? Do you put people on trains and buses, or does that make them moving targets? If an incident happens, you have a short window of time to make decisions that keep people flowing in the District. If you don't make the calls, you have gridlock."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A28637-2003May 22.html>

12. *May 23, Associated Press* — **Unmanned drones may patrol U.S. borders. Unmanned aerial drones similar to ones used in the war on Iraq could be patrolling the US border by the end of the year to help stem illegal immigration and increase security, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Thursday.** "We are very serious in looking at UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles) for both border applications, land and sea," Ridge told the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. **Predators and other remote-controlled aircraft can watch over a potential target and fly for hundreds of miles with cameras, sensors, communications equipment, or missiles.** Support has grown for the unmanned aircraft since their success during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/143/nation/Unmanned_drones_may_patrol_US_borders+.shtml

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *May 26, The Washington Post* — **Postal anthrax testing to expand: new security system to undergo 30-day trial at 14 sites. The U.S. Postal Service plans next week to greatly expand the testing of a new security system to detect against bioterror agents,** the direct result of the anthrax attacks of October 2001, when two employees lost their lives at the Brentwood postal facility in Northeast Washington. The system, which runs a continuing analysis on the mail, has been tested successfully for about nine months in Baltimore, said Thomas G. Day, the Postal Service's vice president of engineering. On June 1, the test will be expanded to 14 postal sites across the country, including those in Dulles and Capitol Heights. After a 30-day trial, postal officials will determine whether the system is good enough to deploy nationally. **The system performs 10,000 tests a night, so if there is a positive match for anthrax DNA, the network computer will provide immediate on-site notification, alerting local and national officials. An emergency response plan would then be activated.**
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38793-2003May 25.html>
14. *May 23, Washington Post* — **Air freight status hinges on DOT ruling.** An airline that does not meet the citizenship criteria in U.S. aviation regulations cannot haul freight or passengers between any two U.S. cities, and must have government permission to pick up or drop off freight or passengers at a single U.S. location in international service. **The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has denied previous protests by FedEx and United Parcel Service (UPS) that rival DHL Airways does not fit the definition of a U.S. citizen. What's at stake now, and a key reason the question is being examined more urgently, is that DHL Worldwide Express, which is owned by the German postal system Deutsche Post, wants to greatly expand its U.S. business by purchasing Seattle-based Airborne Inc., the third-largest U.S. package company.** A DOT administrative law judge is now hearing evidence on whether DHL Airways meets the citizenship criteria, and the Transportation Department has set an October 31 deadline for an opinion. After that, the department will issue a decision.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A28584-2003May 22.html>

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Agriculture Sector

15. *May 22, CNN* — **More herds under quarantine. Canadian food inspectors have quarantined seven herds of cattle believed connected to a case of mad cow disease and will likely add two more herds Thursday, a government spokesman said.** Dr. Claude Lavigne, a spokesman for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, said there was "a distinct possibility" more herds could be added to the quarantine list. "We are focusing on confirmation of the cow's birthplace and the history of feeding practices and sources of feed for this cow," he said, adding that officials had narrowed the cow's birthplace to two possibilities. **The quarantined and soon-to-be-quarantined herds include five where the cow had been housed, three where the cow's offspring had been housed, and the original herd where the cow was when it was killed.** Two of the herds are in Saskatchewan and seven are in Alberta. Canada's first case of BSE occurred in 1993 in a cow that had been imported in 1987 from Britain. The carcass and the herd that the cow came from were destroyed.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/05/22/mad.cow.disease/>

16. *May 22, CFCN Plus* — **Chronic wasting disease link examined.** In Saskatchewan, Canada one dozen wild deer and hundreds of farmed elk have tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) since 1996. Canadian health officials have responded by destroying more than 8000 animals and at least three elk farms are still under quarantine. The farms are in the same region where the mad cow may have come from. **One of the possibilities researchers are looking into is whether Alberta's mad cow could be connected to CWD.** Normally the disease is not supposed to jump species but that is exactly what scientists believe happened with the outbreak of mad cow in the UK. The disease jumped to cattle after they were fed sheep infected with a similar disease called scrapie. **But despite the CWD theory, there is overwhelming evidence that cows can't contract CWD.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's chief veterinarian agrees. "Our investigation to date has found no linkage to any elk or deer, either farms or animals," said Dr. George Luterbach. But scientists in the U.S. haven't totally ruled it out and are still testing the possibility.

Source: http://www.cfcnplus.ca/servlet/RTGAMArticleHTMLTemplate/B.C/20030522/madcow-chronic?brand=generic/generic/hubs/frontpage.htmlric/hubs/frontpage.cfnicchive=CFCNPlus_name=fullstory

17. *May 22, Federal Computer Week* — **USDA system to help assess cargo risk.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded a contract to create a targeting system that enables employees to view agricultural cargo shipments and make risk assessments on them. The company awarded the contract will assist the Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health and Inspections Services plant protection and quarantine program in developing the automated targeting system. **The Web-based system uses a data link to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection's automated targeting system, enabling USDA employees to see cargo shipments and data to make risk-based decisions on the hold or release of cargo.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0519/web-usda-05-22-03.asp>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

18. *May 22, Desert Sun* — **Water won't be abundant in the West, bureau says.** A regular surplus of Colorado River water is a thing of the past. That was the message of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation during a forum Wednesday in Coachella, CA. Officials from the bureau's Boulder City, NV, office said drought and population growth in the West means **there will likely be less river water flowing to California in the future.** For the first time since a drought in the early 1990s, Reclamation officials went on the road to remind river water users that the Colorado is stretched to its limits, especially in the lower basin states of California, Arizona, and Nevada. "We now have a nice little bathtub ring around Lake Mead,"

said Reclamation official Jayne Harkins, pointing to a picture of the reservoir which is at just 62 percent of its storage capacity. Reclamation officials attributed the low levels to a combination of drought and population growth in the West. More states are using their entire share of river water and in recent years snowfall, a major source of replenishment, in the upper basin states has been scarce.

Source: <http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories/local/1053568624.shtml>

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Public Health Sector

19. *May 26, The New York Times* — Toronto again listed as city with spreading SARS cases.

The World Health Organization restored Toronto today to its list of places where severe acute respiratory syndrome is spreading, after the announcement of a fresh outbreak of the disease here. The W.H.O. decision came less than two weeks after Toronto was removed from its list, and just as Canada's largest city was beginning to recover from a serious blow to its economy. However, the W.H.O. stopped short of issuing a travel advisory. The Ontario health authorities announced over the weekend that there were at least eight new probable cases of the disease. Two of those eight patients have died and several others are in critical condition. "This was not expected," said Dr. Paul Gully, a senior official at Health Canada, a federal agency for health education, at a news conference today. He said the risk of the disease's spreading to the general population was "minimal." **The W.H.O. decision was announced by federal health authorities in Ottawa, who said they were confident that a new travel advisory was not pending.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/27/international/americas/27CANA.html?ex=1054612800641G OOGLE>

20. *May 23, Washington Post* — American Red Cross faces new crisis: underfunding. The last two years have been bumpy for the American Red Cross. Controversies have brewed over its handling of cash and blood donations for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, its ousted CEO, layoffs, troublesome local chapters, and demoralized workers. And now, the latest crisis: The Disaster Relief Fund it uses to aid victims of tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and other major events domestically is, well, a catastrophe itself. A series of expensive disasters, including Super Typhoon Pongsana in Guam, wildfires in the West and the recent spate of tornadoes in the Midwest, hasn't sparked the usual outpouring of donations, the organization says. **As a result, the disaster fund has melted down to \$5 million from \$68 million a year ago, and the Red Cross is making urgent appeals before the hurricane season rolls in.** "We've had a pretty exceptional year, disaster-wise," said Marsha Evans, the organization's chief executive for the last nine months. **Evans faces considerable challenges, insiders and outsiders agree, particularly from the 961 local chapters, some of which are financially troubled. In some cases, smaller chapters are merging with larger ones to survive.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7788-2003May18.html>

21. *May 23, Associated Press* — WHO traces SARS virus to civet cat. The World Health Organization (WHO) has traced the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus to the civet cat and two other small mammals in China, and researchers are investigating a possible link to the outbreak of the virus in humans, an official said Friday. **Researchers from the**

University of Hong Kong examined 25 animals representing eight species in a live animal market in southern China and found the SARS virus in all six masked palm civets they sampled, as well as in a badger and a raccoon dog. Klaus Stohr, chief SARS virologist at the World Health Organization, said Friday it was impossible to tell from the study whether any of the animals spread the virus to humans or whether they caught the virus from people. The researchers said people could have been infected by the animals as they handled the animals while raising, slaughtering, or cooking them. The researchers said it was possible that animals got SARS from human feces used in fertilizer, and the illness did not originate with them.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/health/content/shared/health/ap/ap_story.html/Health/AP.V3494.AP-SARS-Virus.html

22. *May 22, News-Sentinel* — **New early-warning system tracks call patterns to 911. A new early-warning system installed by the Three Rivers Ambulance Authority (TRAA), in Fort Wayne, IN, tracks 911 call patterns, and spots a spike in calls reporting certain symptoms before human observers can. The system can be used to identify a disease outbreak, a cluster of food-borne illness, even a bioterrorism attack.** Once the system detects a pattern, it alerts TRAA officials and the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health something could be wrong. "We'd looked for some way to track trends for some time," said Gary Booher, executive director of TRAA, the city/county authority that oversees ambulance service. "We could pull reports from previous days, but we had nothing available in real-time monitoring." **The system works silently, monitoring data from 911 calls for patterns indicating a possible threat or major change in community health trends. The system is not a diagnostic tool and does not send an alert about a peak in specific symptoms, just an alert when any of these symptoms are above the norm in historical data.**

Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/5921027.htm>

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Government Sector

23. *May 23, Washington Post* — **Homeland Security staying put.** Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Thursday that his department plans to remain headquartered in the District for several years and will "build out" its present location at the former Naval Security Station on Nebraska Avenue in Northwest Washington. Testifying at a House oversight hearing in response to a question by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Ridge said the giant new Cabinet department eventually will need "a much larger campus." He added, "Those decisions, I think, will be made years down the road." **"It's our intent to build out and to work with the Navy to phase people out so we can move people in," Ridge said of the 38-acre Nebraska Avenue complex, which includes 32 buildings and hosts the Navy's global computer and telecommunications systems command. The Department of Homeland Security chose the site for its interim home in January, after a brief but intense competition among Virginia, Maryland and District leaders for the installation.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A28892-2003May 22.html>

24.

May 22, U.S. Department of Homeland Security — **Department of Homeland Security teams up with Department of Commerce's Technology Administration.** The Department of Commerce's Technology Administration (TA) will begin working more closely with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under an agreement signed by the two agencies on Thursday. Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology Phillip J. Bond and Under Secretary for Science and Technology for the Department of Homeland Security Charles E. McQueary signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). **The MOU develops a formal working relationship with the DHS Science and Technology Directorate and the TA's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST research includes programs for the detection of chemical, biological and other explosive threats.** NIST is also working to develop "interoperability" standards for first responders and is doing work on cybersecurity, radiation measurements, and biometrics, among other initiatives.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=776>

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *May 24, Associated Press* — **States moderating response to upgraded alerts.** State officials in charge of security say that they are weighing the terrorism threat against the worst budget shortages in 50 years and that they are learning how to use their resources more intelligently. **Although terrorist targets like New York and Washington are stepping up security again, other state and local governments are doing less than they did for the last "orange" terror alert, during the Iraq war. That alert lasted a month and stretched many security budgets to their limits. So when the government raised the alert to high on Tuesday, some officials set their priorities more carefully.** "The threat advisory system really is, at this point, just that – it's advice," said Michael Wermuth, a policy analyst at the Rand research group and the project director for a presidential advisory panel that assessed the nation's ability to respond to terrorism. "It's not a requirement to do anything. It's not really even a specific request to do things."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/24/national/24ALER.html>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

26. *May 23, Sophos* — **Canadian university offering course in virus-writing.** The University of Calgary in Canada is offering its students a course in malicious virus-writing this autumn. The course, titled "Computer Viruses and Malware," is described by university literature as focusing on "developing malicious software such as computer viruses, worms and Trojan horses that are known to wreak havoc to the tune of billions of dollars world-wide on an annual basis." The course professor, Dr. John Aycock, is said to have convinced the University authorities to allow virus writing to be part of the course in the belief that it will lead to a greater understanding of how to stop viruses.

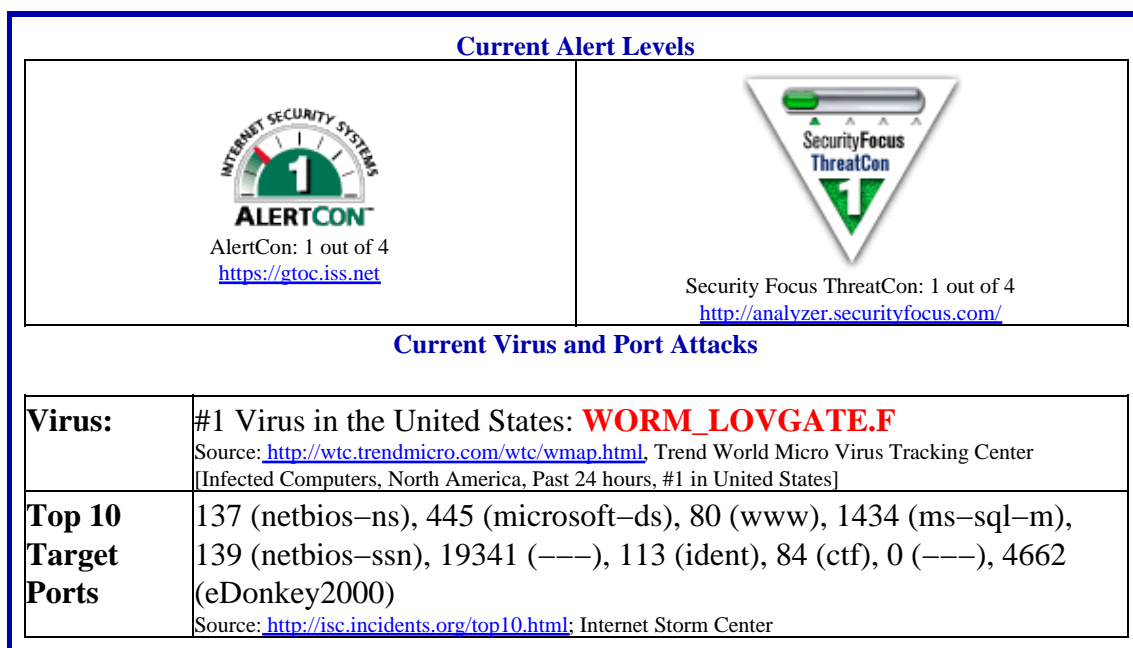
Source: <http://www.sophos.com/virusinfo/articles/calgary.html>

27. *May 23, Associated Press* — **Government to appoint cybersecurity chief.** The Bush administration plans to appoint a new cybersecurity chief for the government inside the Department of Homeland Security, replacing a position once held by a special adviser to the president. The new position is expected to be announced formally within two weeks. **The new cyberchief will be responsible for carrying out the dozens of recommendations in the administration's "National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace,"** a set of proposals put together under Richard Clarke, Bush's top cyberspace adviser, just before his retirement this year.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31674-2003May 23.html>
28. *May 22, Computerworld* — **Corporate IT risks and physical threats are changing security deployment.** Growing IT and physical risks and emerging regulatory requirements are transforming the manner in which security functions need to be viewed, implemented and managed, said executives at the SecurIT 2003 Summit in Phoenix last week. For instance, **it is becoming increasingly important for companies to look at IT and physical threats from a common, unified risk-management perspective,** said Dennis Treece, director of corporate security at the Massachusetts Port Authority in Boston. **"At the end the day, the board is going to see no difference between network and physical security,"** he said. **It is crucial for security executives to be proactive in overcoming notions of security as an expensive and non-revenue-generating function,** users said. And that means being able to put a dollar value on risk as much as possible, especially at a time when IT spending overall has been considerably tightened, Treece said.
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,81444,00.html>
29. *May 22, National Journal* — **Panel asks Ridge about cybersecurity, information analysis.** Members of the House Homeland Security Committee asked Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Tom Ridge on Wednesday about cybersecurity plans and the department's relationship with the new Terrorist Threat Information Center housed at the CIA. In the conclusion of a two-part hearing before the committee, Ridge said that analysts at the information analysis and infrastructure protection directorate would not have access to all of the intelligence community's raw data, but that directorate analysts housed at the threat center would have that access. He also said information could derive from various agencies of the DHS and be sent to the threat center. Ridge also said **future terrorist exercises like the one conducted a few weeks ago would include cyber attacks, though he said there are enough real cyber attacks occurring to make it unnecessary to try to simulate them.** He stated that cybersecurity and physical security are so interdependent that it is impossible to focus just on cyber security.
Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0503/052203tdpml.htm>
30. *May 21, Reuters* — **Hackers flex growing cyber muscle in China.** Eighty-four percent of firms in China reported at least one cyber attack this year, up from 59 percent in 2002, according to a recent survey by Evans Data Corp. **Many firms fail to take basic protective steps, such as changing default passwords when they install new software and staying up to date on software patches.** Evans Data analyst Esther Schindler said **inexperience may also be an issue.** According to an Evans survey last year, the average Chinese programmer had about four years of experience compared with 16 in North America. **Chinese firms may also use pirated software containing hidden "backdoors" and older software that is more vulnerable to attack,** said Allan Paller, of the U.S.-based System Administration, Networking

and Security Institute. Eric Ashdown of Ernst & Young's technology and security risk services practice for China, said **China's weak enforcement of anti-hacking laws is also a problem in a culture where firms often escape with minor penalties for serious infractions.** In addition, many foreign firms believe Chinese public security officials employ hackers when it is in their interest, and that state-mandated encryption software contains backdoors making systems vulnerable, he said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=internetNewsstoryID=2789550>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

31. *May 26, Los Angeles Times* — **Disguised terror suspect arrested at airport, Philippines says.** A leading Philippine terrorism suspect wanted in connection with several deadly bombings was arrested Sunday wearing bandages to disguise his identity as he attempted to board a flight for Manila, authorities said. Muklis Yunos, who allegedly helped carry out bombings that killed dozens of people in the Philippines, was arrested along with a man identified as Egyptian Muslim cleric Al Gabre Mahmud, authorities said. **Yunos, who is also known as Saifullah Yunos, could prove to be a key link between Islamic terrorist groups operating in the Philippines. Philippine authorities say Yunos is the chief of the "special operations" branch in charge of terrorist operations for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a Muslim separatist group waging a war of independence in the southern Philippines.**

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-phil26may26.1,2456150.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dworld>

32.

May 26, New York Times — **Five are arrested in reported plan to set off bomb in Kandahar.** Afghan authorities have arrested five men who reportedly planned to bomb a busy area in the southern city of Kandahar, including one man who is an important Taliban figure with links to the Qaeda terrorist network, the foreign minister, Abdullah, said on Sunday. Three of the men were stopped in a minibus as they approached Kandahar, and two others were detained in a house on the city's outskirts. The men in the minibus had explosives with them, Khalid Pashtun, chief aide to the governor of Kandahar, said in a telephone interview. **Dr. Abdullah said that one of the five men was Mullah Janan, a Taliban member "notorious" for his close ties to Al Qaeda. He said Kabul was waiting for full confirmation of preliminary reports that Mullah Janan had been arrested. Mr. Pashtun would not confirm that Mullah Janan was among the detainees.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/26/international/asia/26AFGH.html>

33. *May 24, New York Times* — **Investigators in Yale bombing shift focus to second sketch.** Federal agents investigating a bombing Wednesday at Yale University Law School on Friday showed students there a second sketch, this time of a man who may have been on the scene just before the explosion, the students said. Federal agents had previously shown them a sketch of a man the students described as a light-skinned black man with a thin face and glasses. His possible role in the explosion was unclear, the students said. On Friday, agents from the Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were also showing students what they characterized as a composite sketch of a white man with long dark hair. The students said they thought a fellow law school student, Carsten Jungmann, had reported spotting such a man in the building just moments before the blast occurred at 4:40 Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Jungmann, who did not return a call seeking comment, was quoted yesterday in The Yale Daily News as saying that the man had been moving "awkwardly."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/24/nyregion/24YALE.html>

34. *May 23, The Christian Science Monitor* — **Lessons in U.S. terror cases.** Two separate federal prosecutions now unfolding in Detroit and upstate New York may be shedding brighter light on the methods and structures of the al Qaeda terror network, even as officials warn the group may be trying to stage its next U.S. attack. If prosecutors are right, these and other cases show that al Qaeda is a multilayered organization with several distinct kinds of cells – everything from self-financed advance teams that do basic spadework to "connectors" who quietly recruit foot soldiers. In fact, in some ways, the group appears to be structured much like any modern military – heavy on logistics and supply units and light on combat troops. **But signs that the group had to finance its own operations suggests it was a second- or third-tier unit, says Levitt. By contrast, the cells that carried out the September 11 attacks apparently received substantial funding from other al Qaeda sources – as did the units that attacked the USS Cole in 2000 and two African embassies in 1988.**

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0523/p03s02-usju.html>

35. *May 23, Boston Globe* — **Canada holding al Qaeda suspect.** A suspected al Qaeda operative was quietly arrested this week by Canadian authorities using a rare "security certificate" to place the Moroccan national behind bars on the grounds that he poses a threat to national security, Canadian intelligence and police officials said on Thursday. **Adil Charkaoui, 30, a Montreal resident, was taken into custody here Wednesday by Royal Canadian Mounted**

Police and Quebec police acting on information provided by Immigration Canada and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the nation's spy agency. Montreal's La Presse newspaper reported that Charkaoui has links to other Canadian residents of North African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian origin who have gained international notoriety as loyalists of Osama Bin Laden's shadowy terror organization.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/143/nation/Canada_holding_Al_Qaeda_suspect+.shtml

36. May 22, *Reno Gazette Journal* — Real estate managers have a role in homeland security.

The Institute of Real Estate Management is working with the federal Department of Homeland Security on a program designed to inform property managers of emergency procedures and provide them with security alerts relative to the industry. **IREM is working with the government on the Information Sharing and Analysis Center, which is designed to facilitate communication between the public and private sectors regarding terrorist threats, warnings and response planning.** "Real estate ownership has gone global," Patricia A. Nooney, the IREM's 2003 president, told more than 40 real estate professionals at the Atlantis Casino Resort on Thursday. "Large owners want to be sure property managers have thought through emergency preparedness."

Source: http://www.rgj.com/news/stories/html/2003/05/22/42784.php?sp_1=rgj=Business

37. May 19, *Associated Press* — Educators propose homeland security high school. Educators in New Britain, CT are creating a proposal for a high school that would train at-risk students for careers in homeland security. A consulting team presented the program to city school officials earlier this year. According to the proposal, the program would include a military-style teaching environment to provide structure and discipline. **"It's a multifaceted, cutting-edge program that will help break the cycle of poverty. Students will be skilled and prepared to earn \$30,000 plus wages right out of high school,"** superintendent Doris Kurtz told *The Herald of New Britain*. The program will be launched in some form this fall at New Britain High School, Kurtz said. Between 50 to 100 students who are at risk academically will be targeted.

Source: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/state/hc-19081739.apds.m0373.bc-ct--homemay19.0.3753874.story?coll=hc-headlines-local-wire>

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